

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-3 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Entry of Amendment

It is respectfully requested that the present Amendment should be entered into the official file in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application into condition for allowance. Alternatively, if the Examiner does not agree that the application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the present Amendment should be entered for the purposes of appeal. The amendments to the claims act to better explain the invention in order to overcome the art rejections. Accordingly, Applicants submit that these amendments simplify the issues. It is further noted that the arguments presented are applicable to the claims being amended or to the claims in their previous form. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider the remarks even if the amendments are not entered.

Rejection Under 35 USC 102

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Tourtellotte (USP 3,536,941). Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Dadd (USP 6,127,750). Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Chari (USP 3,896,319). Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Goldowsky (USP 4,675,563). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by any of these four references. In particular, Applicant submit that in each case the particular elements pointed to by the Examiner as having magnetic or non-magnetic materials do not meet the definition of the outer and inner core fixing members as defined in claim 1.

Claim 1 describes a stator fastening structure of a reciprocating motor as having a frame which extends across an end of the motor and which includes an outer core fixing member and an inner core fixing member. Each of the fixing members is defined as being fixed to and supporting its respective core at an axial end thereof. The ends correspond to each other and the fixing members are joined near these ends. The fixing members are made of different materials, with one being magnetic and one non-magnetic. Dependent claims 2

and 3 specify which of the fixing members is magnetic and which non-magnetic.

In regard to the Tourtellotte reference, the Examiner identifies the frame as 31, 13 and 25 including outer core fixing member 31 and inner core fixing member 25. The Examiner points out that element 31 is made of stainless steel (non-magnetic material) and sleeve 25 is magnetizable material. Applicants submit that the barrier cylinder 31 does not meet the definition of an outer core fixing member. Claim 1 defines the fixing member as being fixed to and supporting the outer core at an end thereof. The cylinder 31 is not an end, but rather along the inner surface. The present Amendment further defines the end as being an axial end which even further illustrates this point. The frame is also defined as being extending across an axial end of the motor, which would also preclude this element from being considered part of the frame. At best, retainer ring 23 and pole sleeve 25 might be considered an outer core fixing member and cap 13 might be considered an inner core fixing member. However, there is no indication that these are made of different materials from each other. Also, it appears that these two elements are not joined together. In view of this, Applicants submit that the Tourtellotte reference does not show the combination of elements defined by claim 1 and especially does not show the fixing members as presently defined. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 defines over the Tourtellotte reference.

The Dadd reference shows a linear compressor motor with magnet 13 and coil 9. The Examiner refers to the frame as including elements 10, 70, 71, 12, and 11 and indicates that the outer core fixing member is 71 and the inner core fixing member is cylinder 4. However, Applicants submit that neither of these elements meet the definition of fixing members as being at an axial end of the outer core and the frame does not meet the definition of extending across the axial end of the motor. Accordingly, since this reference does not show a combination of elements matching that of the claim, Applicants submit that claim 1 defines thereover.

In regard to the Chari reference, the Examiner states that the frame has an outer core fixing member 66 or 68 and an inner core fixing member 16, 18 or 20. As in the previous two references, it is noted that while elements 66 and 68 are fixed on the ends of magnets 64a and 64b, nevertheless, elements 24a and 24b are not inner core fixing members. That is, they are not fixed to an axial end of the inner core and are not connected to elements 66 and 68 at the axial ends. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this reference also does not teach the combination of elements described in claim 1.

With regard to the Goldowsky reference, the Examiner states that the frame includes an outer core fixing member 27 and an inner core fixing member 60. As in the other references, Applicants submit that these elements are not the fixing members as defined in the claims. Thus, column 3, lines 56-

57 indicate that the outer core is element 24 and the inner core is element 26. Both of these cores are held by connecting plate 27. Thus, this element acts as fixing members for both cores. The Examiner has identified one of the fixing members as being element 60 which is defined at column 4, line 40 to be the magnetic flux path. Thus, it is not a fixing member at all. Applicants submit that there is only a single fixing member and that it cannot be both magnetic and non-magnetic.

Thus, in each of the four references cited by the Examiner there are no fixing members which meet the definitions described in claim 1. While some of the references may have elements which are of different materials, they are not the fixing members as presently defined. Applicants furthermore submit that while the claims have been amended to make this clearer, that even without the amendments, the references do not meet the terms of the claim. In each case, the Examiner is requested to point out how the identified element meets the definition of the outer core fixing member or inner core fixing member and in particular, how it is arranged at an end of the core and how the two are joined together as defined in the claims. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 defines over each and every one of the four references cited by the Examiner.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and as such, are also considered to be allowable. These claims further describe which of the fixing members is

magnetic and which is non-magnetic. Since the references do not show the fixing members as presently defined, Applicants submit that these claims are likewise allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above Remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

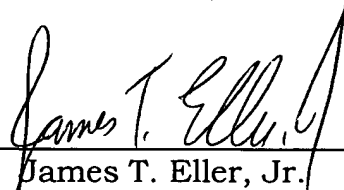
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse (Reg. No. 27,295) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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